

# Attention FDA

0379 '00 MAY -4 11:08

It came to my attention that the FDA is being asked to take away my right to sign a medical waiver before purchasing a hearing aid. Instead I would be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test. Here's my views and/or experiences on several related questions?

1. Should I be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid? If so, should the FDA pay for the exam?

*I believe people should not be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid. I do think it is good to have testing but for many the cost is prohibitive. As much as one may buy magnifying type glasses over the counter, it should be the same for hearing aids.*

2. Some people are physically unable to drive to a doctor or hearing specialist, or have had bad experiences they don't want to repeat. For instance ...

*at the price of gasoline now who's going to drive further than the grocery store. For one living in a rural area, testing by a hearing specialist involves driving 50 miles each way or more.*

3. Should the FDA take away my Constitutional Right, affirmed by the Supreme Court, to decide for myself my medical exams and treatment?

*No*

4. Should I be allowed to purchase hearing aids by mail as I choose?

*Yes*

Signed by:

*Joanna Stuart*

Date: 3-19-00

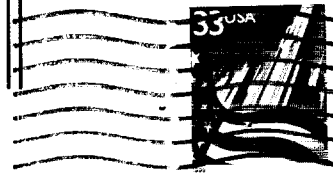
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